

Message Text

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65

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PM/SAS:RSMITH

DOD/ISA:COL HILLENBRANDT(SUBS-PHN)

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O 132304Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008422

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET, US

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO ETHIOPIA

REF:A)KHARTOUM 0082 ; B) KHARTOUM 0114

1. REGARDING MILITARY AID TO ETHIOPIA FROM U.S. YOU WERE TECHNICALLY CORRECT IN TELLING BAGHIR THAT AMMUNITION SALE LAST SPRING WAS ONLY NEW TRANSACTION RE ARMS OF WHICH YOU WERE AWARE. YOU SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, OF SEVERAL OTHER MAJOR USG ACTIONS IN FIELD OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA AS FOLLOWS: (A) ON NOVEMBER 14 WE SIGNED LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOA) WITH PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (PMG) FOR CASH SALE OF 16 F-5ES AT A PRICE OF \$73 MILLION, THE FIRST OF THESE AIRCRAFT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY IN APRIL 1976, AND THE REMAINDER OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. WE HAVE KEPT THIS TRANSACTION CONFIDENTIAL IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE CHANCES OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ITS APPEARING IN THE MEDIA AND JEOPARDIZING CHANCES FOR

RELEASE OF CAPTURED AMERICANS; (B) EARLIER LAST YEAR WE DELIVERED 11 M-60 TANKS TO PMG THEREBY CONSUMMATING A TRANSACTION LONG UNDER DISCUSSION; (C) WE ALSO DELIVERED 8 F-5A AND 2 F-5B AIRCRAFT (AUGUST AND OCTOBER) WHICH HAD BEEN COMMITTED TO ETHIOPIA FOR SOME TIME; AS THESE WERE MAP-SUPPLIED AIRCRAFT DECLARED SURPLUS BY IRAN, IT WAS A NO-COST ACQUISITION BY ETHIOPIA.

2. YOU ARE OF COURSE AWARE THAT OUR MAP AND FMS CREDIT SALES PROGRAMS TO PMG ARE CONTINUING, AND THAT LEVELS WERE MAP \$11.3 MILLION AND FMS CREDITS \$25 MILLION FOR FY 76 AND 11.7 AND 10 FOR FY 76.

3. PMG ALSO INTENDS TO MAKE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC CASH PURCHASES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND HAS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN POSSIBLE FUTURE PURCHASES. GRAND TOTAL COULD, IF ALL PURCHASES CONSUMATED, REACH \$300 MILLION FOR PERIOD FY 75-79 BUT NO SUCH AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED OR IS CONTEMPLATED, AND \$300 MILLION IS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE FIGURE.

4. YOU MAY, IF YOU DEEM IT DESIRABLE FROM STANDPOINT OF YOUR RELATIONS WITH GOS, INFORM BAGHIR AT CONVENIENT TIME, FOR GOS INFORMATION ONLY, OF M-60 TANKS AND F-5A AND B DELIVERIES. MAP AND FMS CREDIT FIGURES FOR FYS 75 AND 76 ARE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. NOTHING SHOULD BE SAID OF F-5E TRANSACTION. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT NO TRANSACTION APPROACHING \$300 MILLION IS CONTEMPLATED ALTHOUGH CASH SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AS IN THE PAST. IN ANY DISCUSSION OF WHOLE SUBJECT YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT ALL PAST, PRESENT AND PROJECTED TRANSACTIONS ARE IN CONTEXT OF A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE 1953 AND WHICH, AS BAGHIR SAID, CANNOT BE TURNED OFF AND ON LIKE A FAUCET.

5. WE ASSUME THAT REFERENCE TO KHARTOUM 96 IN REF B WAS IN ERROR AND THAT INTENTION WAS TO REFER TO KHARTOUM 82. WE HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD THAT ELF EXPECTED SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO ITS COMPLAINT REGARDING USG MILITARY AID TO ETHIOPIA. AS REPLY IS APPARENTLY EXPECTED YOU SHOULD REQUEST GOS
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TO CONFINE ITS RESPONSE TO ELF TO FACT THAT REPORT OF \$300 MILLION AGREEMENT IS ERRONEOUS AND THAT NO SUCH TRANSACTION IS CONTEMPLATED. KISSINGER

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